a fortnightly basis. The patrol will be briefed and de-briefed jointly by the concerned Coy. Commanders. The progress will be reviewed from time to time.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Discussions between the representatives of De Beers and Chairman Hindustan Diamond Company Limited

1093. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three directors of the South African company, De Beers came to Bombay in the latter half of 1988;

(b) whether they held any discussion with the Chairman of the Hindustan Diamond Company Limited Bombay; and

(c) if so, what was the nature of these discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Hindustan Diamond Company Ltd., have reported that there is no information about the visit of three Directors of South African Company, De Beers, to Bombay during 1988.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Effect of Sale of 25 per cent products by 100 per cent export oriented units in domestic market on domestic industry

1094. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government take into consideration the effect on the domestic industry, while allowing 100 per cent export oriented units to sell 25 per cent of the production in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to protect the domestic industry, the facility is accorded on a case by case basis upto 25 per cent of the production and subject to the payment of appropriate Customs and other duties.

Discriminatory increase in prices of rough diamonds

1095. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South African company, De Beers which distributes rough diamonds through its subsidiaries in London has imposed from March, 1989 a highly discriminatory increase in the prices of roughs of the varieties purchased by the Indian diamond cutting industry;

(b) whether Government have protested against such discriminatory price rise and unfair trade practice which is likely to hurt the Indian industry; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent such discriminatory increase in the prices of rough diamonds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The Central Selling Organisation, London, had announced in March, 1989 price increase for the rough diamonds by an average of 15.5 per cent. However, the actual impact of the price increase differed for different qualities and

different cutting centres in the world. There is no evidence to suggest that the increase was discriminatory against the Indian Diamond Cutting Industry and is likely to adversely affect Indian Industry. Both, imports of rough diamonds and exports of cut and polished diamonds from India have registered increases during April—June, 1989 as compared to corresponding figures for the previous year.

Activities of the present Chairman of The Hindustan Diamond Company Limited Bombay

1096. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. S. C. Jhaveri, a former Chairman of the Gem & Jewellary Export Promotion Council informed the Council Members through circulars that Shri S. N. Sharma, the present Chairman of The Hindustan Diamond Company Limited, Bombay was conveying secret trade information to De Beers's subsidiaries to the detriment of Indian business; and

(b) if so, what steps were taken by Government to prevent such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council has reported that no circular as described was issued.

(b) Does not arise.

World Bank assistance for the Kansabati Irrigation Project

1097. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government has sought Centre's permission to secure World Bank assistance for the Kansabati Irrigation Project and to start the work on the Project during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) The Government of West Bengal have sent a proposal for World Bank assistance for the Kangasbati Modernisation Project. The Ministry has included this project for consideration of World Bank assistance and advised the West Bengal Government to prepare an identification report, for facilitating such assistance.

Decline in the inflow of water into Hooghly River

1098. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inflow of water into the Hooghly river during the dry months has been declining fast during the last few years causing disastrous effect on the Calcutta Port, on other inland water transport and on the economic health of the riparian settlements and towns on both sides, of the Hooghly river;

(b) whether the Central Government have made any study in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps the Central Government have taken or propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise